

King Khaled will return on Saturday

JEDDAH, April 26 (R). — King Khaled of Saudi Arabia will return home from London on Saturday, it was officially announced here today. A royal court statement said that the monarch had now completely recovered from two surgical operations on his hip. The king, who left the country for Britain in February, will be accorded a popular and official welcome on his return, the statement added.

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Following renewed demonstrations

Israeli military forces clamp curfew on Casbah area of Nablus

TEL AVIV, April 26 (R). — Israeli military forces used tear gas to disperse stone-throwing demonstrators and clamped a curfew on the congested Casbah area of the West Bank town of Nablus today, army sources said.

They said schoolchildren began demonstrating in the streets this morning, burning tyres and stoning army cars following rumours that Rabbi Meir Kahane, leader of the militant Jewish Defence League, would visit the town today.

American-born Rabbi Kahane, who is campaigning for membership of the Knesset (parliament), has been barred from entering the Arab town, largest on the West Bank, following incidents on previous visits.

During the curfew, young people used catapults to hurl rocks and pieces of iron from the roofs of houses at soldiers and police below, eyewitnesses said, several youths were detained, but no injuries were reported.

By late afternoon, Rabbi Kahane had not come to the town, and army spokesmen said checkpoints on the outskirts had been instructed not to let him pass.

Rabbi Kahane has sent out letters of invitation to a cornerstone-laying ceremony of a new Jewish quarter on the outskirts of Nablus on May 6.

The new quarter would be on Mount Gerizim, held holy by the minuscule Samaritan community.

The Samaritans, who follow only the Biblical written law, are not acknowledged as Jews by orthodox Jewry.

The invitation sent to the mayors of Arab towns were accompanied by a letter from

Rabbi Kahane, saying his plans to establish Jewish settlements in each Arab town were aimed at bringing peace to the region.

The military authorities declined to comment on Rabbi Kahane's invitation, but they said there were standing orders not to allow him to enter Nablus.

Rabbi Kahane has called for civil disobedience by Jews against any withdrawal plans from occupied areas which he regards as promised to Jews in the Bible, saying that religious law must take precedence over civil law.

In a separate report, an Israel Electricity Corporation source said that the corporation has told the municipality of Hebron, it will cut off electricity to the town at the end of the week unless an outstanding bill for value added tax (VAT) is paid, corporation sources said.

They said the town owes 170,000 Israeli pounds (just over £10,000).

The municipality said it had not collected the eight per cent tax from residents as a matter of principle, claiming that imposition of the new tax in the occupied areas was illegal.

Municipality sources said most councillors thought the tax should now be paid to prevent disconnection of the service. But a final decision would have to await the return of Hebron's mayor, Fahd Kawaismi who is in Saudi Arabia trying to get grants and loans for his town. A similar threat to cut electricity from the West Bank town of Tulkarm some months ago was cancelled when the municipality decided to pay the tax.

Power is supplied to the West Bank towns from the Israel national grid, with the municipalities collecting the payments.

U.S. Defence Department seeks Congress approval for foreign arms sale

WASHINGTON, April 26 (R).

— The U.S. Defence Department today sought approval from Congress for \$438 million in foreign arms sales, including the first installment on a controversial Hawk anti-aircraft missile sale to Jordan.

A department spokesman said he knew of no connection with the visit here of His Ma-

jesty King Hussein and the Pentagon's notification of the sale of \$64 million worth of improved Hawk technical support and training.

The United States and Jordan agreed last September to a \$540 million air defence system sale of 500 Hawk missiles and vulcan anti-aircraft guns.

Jordan had threatened to go to the Soviet Union for missiles when the price of the air defence system went as high as \$750 million and Saudi Arabia, who financed the purchase balked the high cost.

The deal however was wrapped up after months of negotiations resulting in a less costly version of the original system.

The Pentagon also notified Congress, which has 30 days to disapprove the proposed sales, of \$151 million in military construction to Saudi Arabia. It proposed an estimated \$140 million in Howitzer guns and M-60 tanks to Israel.

The Pentagon also notified Congress of proposed letter of offer to sell South Korea modification kits to upgrade 304 older Hawk missiles to the improved version. The estimated price of the kits was \$83 million.

Moroccan troops aim to block rebel retreat

KINSHASA, April 26 (AFP).

— Moroccan forces buoyed by their recapture yesterday of the strategic town of Mutshatsha from Katangese rebels in Shaba province (ex-Katanga) aim to prevent any of the rebels from fleeing back into Angola, the daily Salongo reported today.

Mopping up operations around Mutshatsha were reportedly underway yesterday after Zaire-Moroccan troops recaptured the town virtually without a shot fired.

The national news agency Azap said President Mobutu Sese Seko who is now visiting Shaba would go to Mutshatsha

before returning to the capital. Azap said "heroic battles" had taken place between April 14 and 17 forcing the enemy to withdraw to Dilolo a town on the border with Angola.

The news agency said the rebels had been critically abandoned by the "Russo-Cuban coalition" and had no alternative but to run or die.

"The graves of these impudent invaders will be dug on this side of the border, not in red Angola", Azap said.

In Paris, President Valery Giscard d'Estaing today told ministers that "French action and decisiveness have given back confidence to Africa".



A FRIENDLY CHAT -- President Carter (left) chats with His Majesty King Hussein following welcoming ceremonies at the White House Monday. (AP wirephoto).

Peres: M.E. peace talks might start this year

TEL AVIV, April 26 (R).

— Israel's acting Prime Minister Mr. Shimon Peres said yesterday he agreed with President Carter that there was a possibility of Middle East peace negotiations starting this year.

But like the United States president, he felt the chances of bringing such talks to a speedy conclusion were small.

Addressing an independence day gathering of Israeli war wounded, Mr. Peres, Israel's Defence Minister, said: "I was very glad to hear President Carter's statement at this evening's reception (in Washington) for King Hussein."

"He said he was not convinced that, although the year 1977 was auspicious for conducting negotiations, it would be possible to bring the talks to a speedy conclusion," Mr. Peres said.

Mr. Peres, who is acting as premier in place of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin who is on leave of absence, said he thought along the same lines.

Mr. Peres added: "I tend to think along the same lines. It is indeed possible to resume negotiations in 1977, but the pro-

blem of concluding them stems from three causes:

"So far not one Arab leader has expressed himself fully and unconditionally in favour of true peace with Israel."

"Secondly, even those Arabs, including (Egyptian President Anwar) Sadat and King Hussein who talk of ending the state of belligerence are not prepared to pay the price."

"The third reason is that the Arab World, including its moderate leaders, is still bound to and following the extremist line of the Palestine Liberation Organisation and its leader Yasser Arafat."

"Arafat, in fact, says something very simple: He favours peace and the establishment of a Palestine state because this will insist on liquidating the state of Israel."

"In other words, he wants peace in order to do away with Israel, and I find it hard to believe that an experienced and reasonable man like Sadat does not realise that Israel cannot afford to return to borders only a few kilometres east of Ben Gurion International Airport," he said.

He was asked if this meant he was pessimistic. "I'm not pessimistic, but I don't believe in being overly optimistic," he replied.

The note of caution Mr. Carter has sounded throughout his talks with King Hussein has been a departure from previous statements by top U.S. officials that 1977 saw a good chance for a Middle East settlement.

Speaking at a White House dinner last night, King Hussein

45-minute meeting with President Sadat, said "We want to achieve peaceful solutions to problems, not violent solutions, and in that area (Africa) we're all very worried about the extent of Soviet arms supplies around Africa."

Later, at a press conference he said he did not ask that Africa be the preserve of any one country.

Dr. Owen said he had seen

With caution noted throughout

King Hussein, Carter end Mideast talks

WASHINGTON, April 26 (Agencies).

— His Majesty King Hussein and U.S. President Jimmy Carter held their final round of talks here at the White House today.

The two leaders, a Jordan News Agency report said, concentrated on the Middle East problem and the role the United States could play towards the achievement of a just and durable peace in the area, based on the total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. The King and the accompanying delegation will continue talks with a number of American officials.

However, Reuter reported that the two leaders concentrated on the question of Palestinian representation at Geneva, the main stumbling block to the resumption of the peace conference.

Speaking to reporters at the end of talks Mr. Carter said: "All the leaders seem to agree, the more agreement that we can reach before going to Geneva the less argument there's going to be about the form of the Palestinian representation."

"And I think unless we see some strong possibility for substantial achievements before the Geneva conference can be convened, unless we see that, prospect then I think it would be better not to have a Geneva conference at all," he said.

President Carter said that when he had finished his present round of talks with the Middle Eastern leaders next month, he planned to send Secretary of State Cyrus Vance on his second trip to the Middle East for further discussions.

Mr. Carter has now met the leaders of Israel, Egypt and Jordan in Washington and will hold talks with Syrian President Hafez Assad in Geneva on May 9.

The President was asked by reporters how his talks with King Hussein and gone. He replied: "Just fine. One of the most productive and enjoyable visits we've had."

But then he added: "So far I've been encouraged, although I think it would be a mistake to expect too much. The differences are very wide, longstanding and deep but I found a strong desire among all the leaders I've met so far to marshal an extraordinary effort (for peace)."

He was asked if this meant he was pessimistic. "I'm not pessimistic, but I don't believe in being overly optimistic," he replied.

The note of caution Mr. Carter has sounded throughout his talks with King Hussein has been a departure from previous statements by top U.S. officials that 1977 saw a good chance for a Middle East settlement.

Speaking at a White House dinner last night, King Hussein

said his talks with Mr. Carter had given him encouragement and hope.

The United States holds the view that a homeland for Palestinian refugees must be included in any peace agreement, but that the Palestine Liberation Organisation must in turn recognise Israel's right to exist.

Israel has indicated it would be willing to accept a Palestinian homeland inside Jordan, but has so far refused to agree to any formula calling for it to give up all the land it captured in the 1967 war.

The King, who leaves here for New York tomorrow, holds a press conference later today.

Interviewed by BBC

Sharaf: U.S. capable of changing Israeli policy

LONDON, April 26 (J.T.).

— Chief of the Royal Cabinet Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf said today that the United States is capable, now and in the future, of decisively influencing Israeli policy towards moderation, reason and far-sightedness concerning its future in the Middle East.

Sharaf was speaking to a BBC reporter, who interviewed him during his stopover in London on his way to Washington with His Majesty King Hussein.

"Israel cannot live forever in a hostile environment," he said. But he wondered whether the U.S. leadership would press for a just peace.

He hoped that U.S. President Jimmy Carter would react positively, according to the interests of the United States.

Asked about Jordan's strategy in Washington, Sharaf said: "It is compatible with the overall Arab strategy, especially the strategy of the confrontation states."

They have agreed upon a unified "work programme", he added, which seeks in general to achieve a full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the realisation of the Palestinian rights, including their right to build

their own independent state. Another feature of this general strategy, Sharaf said, is to open a dialogue with the United States to realise a working plan for the desired peace in the area.

"King Hussein's visit comes within the framework of this strategy," he said.

Answering a question on the Jordanian-PLO dialogue, Sharaf said that it is taking place in a "brotherly atmosphere" to create the best relations and to seek a unified stand for the future. All this comes within the overall Arab plan, especially for the confrontation states, he said.

Asked about the possibility of reconvening the Geneva conference after the change in the Israeli leadership, Sharaf said that this will have a great impact on the course of events in the area.

"We hear much about doves and hawks in Israel, but what the Arab World has witnessed in the past 10 years is that there is no difference between 'doves and hawks', especially when it comes to the problem of Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories," he said. As for the Geneva conference, "we are very keen to achieve a just and durable peace in the area," he concluded.

Egypt wants to improve relations with Moscow

PARIS, April 26 (R).

— Egyptian Vice President Husni Mubarak left here today for Belgrade aboard a special Egypt Air flight after a two-day visit to France.

Vice President Mubarak yesterday delivered a message from President Sadat to President Valery Giscard d'Estaing reporting on his talks with President Carter.

Meanwhile, Mr. Mubarak told a press conference here today that Egypt was trying to improve its relations with the Soviet Union, strained after the Kremlin's refusal to supply arms and spare parts in recent years.

"We never forget that the Soviet Union has helped us for a long time with great quantities of arms and cooperation in many fields, we are stretching a friendly hand to the Russians," he said.

Soviet-Egyptian relations must now start on a new footing. "We must now have a new relationship on a new ba-

sis with the Soviets", he added.

Mr. Mubarak said that Syrian President Hafez Assad and Palestinian Liberation Organisation leader Yasser Arafat told Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev during their visits to Moscow of Egypt's wishes to restore friendly relations with the Soviet Union.

Mr. Mubarak said Washington also realised that the Palestinians should establish their own independent state and have a special relationship with Jordan "just to give guarantees to the Israelis."

President Carter wanted the Geneva peace conference to resume in the second half of this year after the Israeli general election in May, he said.

But both presidents Sadat and Carter agreed there should be fuller preparations "so that the Geneva conference reconvenes in earnest, and not just ceremonially". Mr. Mubarak said.



MOROCCAN TROOPS MOVE UP -- Armed Moroccan troops, in their own transport, move along a dirt-track near Lubudi river in Zaire's Shaba province Sunday. The Moroccans were moving towards the town of Mutshatsha, which had been abandoned by Katangese rebels. (AP wirephoto).

THE ROYAL RACING CLUB HAS THE PLEASURE

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Recurrent madness

It is a testimony to the remarkable resilience of the Lebanese people that street peddlers have once again set up shop in Beirut where tanks and machineguns were blazing away less than 24 hours earlier.

The tragedy is that the transformation from peace to war is just as abrupt and the Lebanese (and other residents of the country) have proven themselves equally resilient to that particular metamorphosis.

By now the country itself is leading a double life. Death and destruction are senseless at the best of times, their intrusion in daily life in Lebanon spurred by factors beyond the control of those whose life it affects and whom it sends scurrying for shelter without a moment's notice is an incarnation of the senseless in history, a challenge to the rationality and meaning of life.

But to pick up the pieces of one's life next day as though nothing had happened is not an act of courage but of defeatism, it is to turn one's back on what one cannot countenance, a withdrawal from unpleasant reality, a catatonic form of behaviour for it implies an acknowledgement of the suspension of rationality as a permissible, even daily occurrence.

Some may argue that this is only a manifestation of the adaptability of human beings, a positive factor, an example of the resourcefulness of the human mind at times of war in anticipation of better days.

Others may argue that this time the fighting was between the Arab peace-keeping force and extremists and was a sort of mopping up operation, signalling the nearness of the end.

Yet one is reminded of the assassination of Junblatt and the senseless killings it brought in its train, an occurrence that could repeat itself at any day and any time, so long as almost the entire population is armed and factional splits have not yet healed.

It is time for the Lebanese people and other residents of the country to realize that they cannot pick up the pieces of their lives while sitting on a powder keg. It is time for them to think up ways to ensure that madness will not be free to intrude unannounced into their lives without so much as a by-your-leave. A possible start would be for people to surrender their arms to the government; that may not protect them from their foes -- a task best left to the peace-keeping force and the national army now undergoing the painful process of birth -- it will, however, protect them from their own potential folly.

People must involve themselves in the quest for peace just as others have involved themselves in creating the nightmare of war. Social sanctions must be reintroduced against the members of one's own group who still delight in the aberrations of mass murder and pointless political fanaticism. Lebanon needs a mass movement against madness.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

Three Jordanian dailies commented in their Tuesday editorials on His Majesty's current visit to the United States. A fourth daily discussed Israel's escalating intervention in the south of Lebanon.

AL RA'I, said that the Carter-Hussein talks have a common ground. Both leaders are convinced that in spite of 1977 being a propitious year for peace they believe in avoiding over-optimism.

The Israeli occupation could be ended during a period of six weeks or six months if the international community adopted the principle of morality as its guideline, the paper said. The United States should take the lead without our forgetting the important role which the Soviet Union and Western Europe could play.

AL DUSTOUR, said that President Carter's welcoming speech and the one His Majesty delivered in reply outlined a number of essential facts: That of the importance of His Majesty's visit, owing to the vital role of Jordan in the region and the international stature of His Majesty, 1977 being suitable for the success of any peace efforts, and the importance of the moral element which President Carter insists should regulate the U.S.'s foreign policy.

AL SHA'B, calls for fundamental changes in the U.S. position towards the Middle East conflict, if it really wants to achieve peace. The conflict has remained unsolved all these years, the paper added, owing to the U.S. position totally in support of Israel and its expansionist policies, and its reluctance to implement U.N. resolutions on the Middle East.

We are encouraged to call for such a change by President Carter's enthusiasm to champion the cause of human rights, a cause which is indivisible and which could suffer no discrimination, the paper said. Human beings are the same whether they are in Palestine or the Soviet Union.

AL AKHBAR, commenting on the declaration by Israeli Minister of Defence Shimon Peres that Israel should protect south Lebanon and the Christians there, said this excuse is just to cover up and an excuse for a new Israeli aggression.

Christians in the occupied territories, which include the Christian town of Nazareth and Bishop Capucci are outstanding proofs to refute that allegation. They are persecuted and imprisoned, the paper said. Israel has not changed its expansionist policy. It can only be checked by an opposite, equal (if not superior) force, the paper concluded.

Italy may expect leftist anger

ROME, April 26 (AFP). — Recent government measures to maintain law and order have isolated the authorities and there is now the danger of a head-on clash with leftist parties and trade unions, worried at the ban on demonstrations at the new right of police to open fire.

The Communist and Socialist Parties have reacted strongly to the ban on demonstrations until May 31. "Is this a deliberate repressive move," questioned a senior Socialist Party member, Fabrizio Cicciotto. "On the pretext of defusing provocative situations, the government clamps down on liberties and creates a police state."

Trade union members, deprived of their customary May 1 parade, are just as worried. "We cannot tolerate a ban on trade union parades," said a joint communiqué issued by the powerful Communist-dominated CGIL, the Christian Democrat CISL and the Socialist UIL.

Another measure has also been bitterly criticised by leftist parties and trade unions -- the decision of Interior Minister Francesco Cossiga that police

could open fire if they were fired on.

So far as the Communists are concerned -- they are convinced that violence only serves the aims of the extreme right -- the use of arms by the police could bring about serious trouble in the country, especially as the 1,500,000 unemployed provide fertile material for a social explosion.

On Sunday, the Socialist daily Repubblica analysed the situation in Italy with the comment: "The head-on clash between the government, on one hand and the leftist parties and trade unions, on the other, over law and order threatens relations between both sides."

Some observers are wondering if this is not the precise aim of the "strategy of tension" in Italy. The aim would be to divide the parties -- especially the Christian Democrats and the Communists -- at the very moment they are trying to draw up a joint economic programme to save the country from its current economic crisis. This programme could have major political implications, like the probable entry of Communists into the

Christian Democratic government.

The leftist parties are urging the government to lift both of its new "emergency" law and order measures to take the drama out of the situation and to continue dialogue in a particularly delicate period.

The Socialist Party said in a recent document: "The Italian crisis can not be solved by emergency measures, but by attacking the roots of the evil, in other words the economic situation."

The minority Christian Democratic government is aware of this, but it does not seem prepared to give up its firmness in the law and order field.

Mr. Cossiga has categorically refused to drop his ban on demonstrations, but he did point out "police will only open fire in legitimate defence."

This qualification has not satisfied the left. Even more, political leftist groups have decided to ignore the ban. On Saturday, Florence protesting students demonstrated in the streets, and in Rome the radicals called for a demonstration on May 12. On university campuses, there is growing tension.

Technology bears big gifts of total destruction

NEWS ANALYSIS

By Gwynne Dyer

The next big strategic revolution is at hand, and it threatens to destroy the whole existing basis of nuclear deterrence. Technology's next major gift to the world's armed forces is now fairly clearly going to be ray weapons -- laser beams and charged-particle beams of immense power.

These high-energy beams would be mainly useful as anti-ballistic missile (ABM) defences. Such defences could give either superpower the hope of surviving a nuclear war without suffering unacceptable damage and casualties, and so quickly and totally subvert the existing basis of deterrence.

Mutual assured destruction (MAD) is the doctrine of deterrence explicitly accepted by the United States, and at least implicitly by the Russians, since the introduction of long-range ballistic missiles in the early 1960s. It states that so long as each side knows that it cannot save its own cities from nuclear retaliation even if it strikes first, then neither side will have anything to gain by attacking. Safely lies in total mutual vulnerability.

Any really effective defence against ballistic missiles would make that doctrine instantly obsolete. ABM defences would give each side a better hope of surviving a nuclear war, but by the same token they would greatly raise the likelihood of nuclear war.

In fact, the superpowers did not really adopt the MAD doctrine out of conviction, but merely because defence seemed impossible. The proof of that lies in the ABM controversy of a decade ago. In 1966 both the U.S. and the USSR tested the first elements of a primitive mechanical ABM system, based on intercepting incoming missiles with other missiles.

It was an appallingly expensive method and only doubtfully effective. Since it operated on at best a one-of-one exchange ratio between ICBMs and interceptors, and ICBMs were cheaper, any given ABM system could easily be swamped by building more offensive missiles.

Despite these crippling handicaps, the idea of being able to protect their cities was so seductive that both superpowers spent heavily on ABM through the late 1960s. The two sides managed to agree to curtail the further deployment of these ABM systems in 1972 (and save a lot of money) mainly because it was clear that they wouldn't work.

But neither of the new high-energy beam systems would share the fundamental handicap of last generation's ABM. Operating at light-speed and capable of being switched between targets many times a second, they do not face the same problem of saturation by too many incoming missiles.

There are two new ray weapons under development, the 'charged-particle electron beam' (which must be ground-based) and a high-energy laser weapon (which would operate better in space). Only the Soviet Union is known to be working seriously on the former, but superpowers have heavily-funded programmes to develop the latter.

Both systems could potentially destroy all hostile ballistic missiles, whether launched from land or from submarines, and a space-based laser defence would also have a partial capability against bombers. According to Gen. George Keegan, recently retired head of U.S. Air Force Intelligence, the Russians could have solved the remaining technical problems in the charged particle beam by 1980. The fundamental breakthrough in laser technology

may already have taken place. Gen. Keegan claims that the Soviet Union has spent tens of billions of rubles over the past seven-eight years on charged-particle beam research, and now has developed most of the supporting technology. The weapon employs a huge quantity of electrical energy -- tens of billions of electron volts per pulse -- which is kept in a tight beam by injecting heavy protons. It is focused and aimed by magnetic mirrors, and could theoretically destroy any target for several hundred kilometres out into space.

The central problem with this weapon is that this scale of energy can only be supplied by exploding megaton-range hydrogen bombs in an underground chamber. The energy must be contained by enormously powerful magnetic fields, and stored for some milliseconds until it is released as a pulsed beam of electrons. That is a fairly tall order.

Not all Gen. Keegan's former colleagues agree on how advanced the Russian work is. However, Lt. Gen. Daniel Graham, the recently retired head of the U.S. Defence Intelligence Agency, testified to Congress last month that the Russians "think they can weaponise" electron beams and have "very large facilities working on it. The facilities are probably at Serpukhovsk in Soviet Central Asia, the ABM centre, where they are also working on laser weapons."

The key advance in laser technology may already have occurred, at least in the United States. Dr. George Hellmeier, the Director of the Defence Advanced Research Projects Agency, reported to a congressional defence subcommittee in February that the United States had made a research breakthrough since June 1976, which indicated that high-energy lasers could be successful weapons in space.

Besides defending American satellites against Russian "killer satellites", he said, they might be used to detonate missile warheads in space, disrupt communications, and destroy bombers. (Last September the U.S. army used a vehicle-mounted laser to shoot down helicopters at half-a-mile range).

The United States now plans to continue its work on step-lasers would open fire if they were fired on.

ping up the power of the promising hydrogen-fluoride chemical lasers, which offer the prospect of being light enough to provide an economically feasible space-based weapon. There is already talk of launching a prototype into space on a Soviet IIC rocket in the early 1980s.

The charged-particle beam is clearly a less vulnerable system, but technically far more difficult to achieve. A space-based laser ABM system is easier to interfere with, and obviously implies a rapid expansion of military capabilities in space, but it is also less demanding technically. This prospect may indeed be one of the reasons that the Soviet Union has been experimenting with killer satellites since 1969, and is certainly why the U.S. air force is now seeking an anti-satellite missile.

Either system would create a large element of doubt about the whole concept of MAD. It would raise the possibility that one superpower could launch a nuclear attack and defend itself successfully against the other's retaliation, or, just as dangerous, mistakenly think it could.

The previous experience with ABM in the 1960s has shown how hard it is to stop even an ineffective system once momentum has built up and very large sums of money have been committed. An optimist could believe that that is why President Carter has proposed an agreement not to arm orbiting satellites and to impose "strict controls or even a freeze on new types and new generations of weaponry."

The Russians may be just as worried as the United States, for if you down-grade the effectiveness of ballistic missiles you raise the value of hard-to-detect, low-level systems like the Cruise missile, in which the United States enjoys a substantial lead. Perhaps Mr. Brezhnev had the same purpose in proposing a treaty banning "new types of weapons of mass destruction" in the United Nations in September 1975.

There is still some time left, but with each passing year these new weapons will be harder to stop. The issue is not just technology; it may be survival.

NEWS FOCUS

Concorde is a dying project whatever New York decides

TOULOUSE, France, April 26 (R). Concorde is dying a slow but sure death, according to executives of the state-run aviation firm building the super-sonic airliner here.

Whatever New York finally decides on permitting the plane to land there, the Anglo-French airliner seems doomed as a commercial project, the officials believe.

The last of the French-built airliners is on the way to completion in a vast white hangar at Toulouse, centre of France's threatened aviation industry.

A simple signboard proclaims "Concorde number 15". This is France's final entry in a total production series of 16 planes which the French and British governments have authorised. Number 16 is to be built in England. The two governments have no plans to go any further with a plane that does not sell.

The gloomy atmosphere of resignation in the Concorde construction hangar makes the heated arguments still swirling around the plane outside seem somewhat superfluous.

"Even if New York allows us to land there, it's a year too late," sighed an executive of Aerospatiale, the builder of the French Concorde.

No more than two dozen workers are engaged at a time in building the last French model, compared with a Concorde construction force here of 1,250 men at the turn of the 1970s when Franco-British workers were still flying high.

At the moment, Concorde 15 is a green-coloured aluminium tube, with pastel side fins mounted on orange steel trestles. The bright construction colours belie the sense of despondency within the hangar.

Visitors are asked not to talk to the Concorde workers because the men say they find it discouraging and demeaning to be questioned on the fate of the plane and their own jobs. The assembly line is progressively coming to a halt and there are no real prospects for starting it up again.

The workers on Concorde 15 know nobody has bought the plane. So their pace is unhurried. "It's the last one and everybody realises it," says Aerospatiale Public Relations official Henri Detappe.

At a unit selling price of \$60 million and with an uncertain flying future in an ecology-minded world, Concorde has no prospective new buyers in sight.

Another official said: "The closer we get to finishing Concorde, the closer Concorde is to dying."

Of the 16 planes authorised, the two earliest models are used as research aircraft, nine have been bought for commercial service by Air France and British Airways, and five remain unsold.

Mr. D. Krook, Dutch Vice President of the European



British Airways Concorde: A sad fate for a wonder of modern technology?

group which markets the wide-bodied Airbus plane here, said Concorde's trouble was that it came at a very difficult time "which could not be conceived when it was launched."

The quadrupling of fuel prices and the world economic recession created an adverse situation in the first half of the 1970s in which the environment became a key factor, he noted.

So why does the Concorde dispute still raise such passions? Why is the New York landing decision still awaited with such interest?

The way the Aerospatiale people see it, it is now a vital matter of principle. It is no longer a question of aspiring to build 50 or 100 Concordes -- a dream long forgotten -- but a question of making sure that Air France and British Airways can at least exploit as they would wish the technology of supersonic flight.

"This is a symbol of Franco-British aspirations which the Americans have killed by unfair play," argues Mr. Jean-Michel Fourtani, an engineer in charge of Concorde's technical training division. He concedes that the United States cannot be entirely held to blame for the plane's poor sales record. But he claims that if the Americans had built their own supersonic airliner, there would never have been any trouble about landing at New York.

A recent successful campaign by the Toulouse-based Concorde Support Committee to secure 150,000 petition signatures -- equivalent to one in every three inhabitants of this aviation-minded city -- was aimed not only at influencing New York authorities but at restoring the morale of the unhappy men in the Concorde hangar.

There is a strong feeling here that the United States will eventually stride into the supersonic airliner business with a plane twice as big as far less noisy than the 100-ton Concorde. Franco-British original 1965 is a date advanced for that development.

"Even if we go into the plane in partnership with the Americans, we are going to have to keep in this business in the interval," M. Fourtani says.

"By 1985 the original Concorde technology will be out of date, so we won't put much weight in any partnership unless we keep moving ahead."

The hopes of M. Fourtani and the Support Committee, which he heads, is to fill the gap during the 1980s by building a new version of Concorde with the same dimensions as the first but quieter in the expectation that U.S. airlines would rush to buy it.

"We cannot let our pioneers go to waste," he says. But so far the French and British governments show no sign of committing themselves to a future supersonic project.



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JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

JORDAN TELEVISION

Channel 3 & 6:	8:20	Reportage
6:00 Quran		
6:05 Cartoons		
6:10 Agricultural programme		
7:00 Muppet show		
8:00 News in Arabic		
Channel 3:	10:00	News in English
7:30 Sports programme		
8:30 Arabic series		
	10:15	Ben Hall

RADIO JORDAN

7:00 Breakfast show	15:00 Concert hour
7:30 News	16:00 Old favourites
7:45 News reports	16:30 Easy listening
8:00 Sign off	17:00 Arab centres
12:00 Pop session	17:30 Pop session
13:00 News summary	18:00 News summary
13:05 Pop session	18:05 Catch the words
14:00 News	18:30 Special feature
14:10 Radio magazine	19:00 News
14:20 Music	19:10 News reports
14:45 Bits and pieces	19:30 Sign off

EMERGENCIES

Doctors:	Granada (23668)	Lubna (44944)
Amman:		
Said Abdul Kader (73500)		
Fawzi Nino (88198)		
Nurses:	Yarmuk	Zarqa
Irbid:		
Jabri Mustapha (3211)		
Ahmad Jakhani		
Zarqa:	Hawuz	Taxi:
Rakhat Shajrawi (83038)		
Pharmacies:	Jerusalem (26555)	Shamsan (21323)
Amman:		
Hilal (24422)		
Salameh (56775)		

AMMAN AIRPORT

Arrivals:	Departures:
7:55 Cairo (EA)	8:45 Athens, Amsterdam
8:20 Dubai (Alitalia)	9:00 Beirut (MEA)
8:25 Muscat	10:00 Vienna, Copenhagen
8:45 Karachi, Abu Dhabi	11:00 Damascus, Aleppo
9:15 Jeddah	12:00 London
9:30 Baghdad (Iraq)	12:30 Baghdad (Iraq)
9:45 Athens	12:45 Baghdad (Iraq)
10:20 Beirut (JAL)	13:00 Doha, Dubai, Muscat
11:30 Baghdad (Iraq)	14:15 Geneva
12:00 Rome	15:45 Riyadh, Dhahran (SDI)
12:30 Athens	16:00 Laraca (CY)
14:20 Jeddah (SDI)	16:30 Dhahran
16:20 Aleppo, Damascus	18:50 Baghdad, Doha
16:45 Cairo	20:00 Kuwait
17:15 Laraca (CY)	20:30 Ravalpindi (BA)
17:50 Amsterdam, Brussels	
18:00 Beirut (MEA)	
18:15 Frankfurt, Munich, Damascus (Lufthansa)	
21:35 London (BA)	
23:10 Tehran	

BBC RADIO

05:30 World News; 24 hours	14:30 Shakespeare on Record
06:30 Sarah Ward	15:00 Radio Newsworld
07:45 The World Today	15:15 Racing
08:00 News; Press Review	16:00 News; Commentary
08:30 Terry Wogan's LP Show	16:15 Just a Minute
	16:30 The World Today
07:00 News; 24 hours	17:00 News
07:30 Sarah Ward	17:05 Discovery
07:45 Report on Religion	17:15 Book Choice
08:00 News	17:45 Sports Round-up
08:15 Lucky Jim	18:00 News; Radio Newsworld
08:30 John Peel	18:30 Top Twenty
09:00 News; Press Review	19:00 Outlook: News Summary
09:30 Financial News	19:40 Stock Market Report
10:00 Paperbacks	19:45 Dances of Old Vienna
10:30 Command Performance	20:00 News; 24 hours
11:00 News	20:30 David Gell's Music
11:25 Business and Industry	21:00 Report on Religion
12:00 Farming World	21:15 International Soccer Special
12:15 David Gell's Music	22:00 News; The World Today
12:45 Sports Round-up	22:45 Financial News
13:00 News; 24 hours	22:50 Sports Round-up
13:30 World Radio Club	23:00 News; Commentary
13:45 A Jolly Good Show	

VOICE OF AMERICA

GMT	18:00	Special English News
03:30	The Breakfast Show	Space
04:00	03:00, 04:00, 05:00 and	Man. News Summary
06:00	GMT: News, Regional	Music USA (Standard)
06:30	and Topical Reports:	News Roundup, Reports
	VOA Current News	Actualities, Opinion, Analysis, News Summary
	Summary	VOA Magazine, American Science, Cultural, Letters
	05:30, 06:30 and 05:30	Special English News
	VOA World Report	Music USA (Jazz)
	and interviews, answers	to listeners' questions, to News newsmakers'
	Science Digest	21:30 voices correspondents' reports... background features... media comments... news analyses
17:00	News Roundup, Reports, Actualities, Opinion, Analysis, News Summary	
17:30	Digest	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Ambulance (government)	Tel. 78111
Civil defence rescue	2620-4
Fire headquarters	2280
First aid, fire, police	12
Jordan Electric Power Co. (emergency)	2620-2
Municipal water service (emergency)	2711-4
Police headquarters	28141
Najfeh, roving patrol rescue police, (English spoken) 24 hours a day for emergency help	2111, 2777
Airport information (Arabic)	8280

Cultural Centres

American Centre (USIS)	Tel. 4180
British Council	2610-3
French Cultural Centre	2700
Gothic Institute	4200
Soviet Cultural Centre	4200
Amman Municipal Library	2611

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مركز الصحافة

Economic ties with Taiwan remain solid

Despite suspension of diplomatic relations

an established relations with the People's Republic of China two weeks ago, prompting nationalist to suspend her relations with Amman. Taiwan, ever, has a strong interest in several development projects in the country, such as the construction of the Al Safi-Aqaba road. A Jordan Times report investigated how these economic links will be affected by this sudden political move.

Lina Gress (The Jordan Times)

Only by riding a horse can you know the distance that you'll have to travel to know its capability. An old Chinese saying said that the distance between two friends is not measured by the distance between them, but by the time it takes for them to meet. This is the case with the relationship between Jordan and Taiwan.

As a private joint venture, other Chinese experts are working in the spinning and weaving industry. Nationalist China will continue to import phosphate from Jordan, Mr. Yao stated. Exports of this raw material to Taiwan totalled JD 2 million last year.

Jordan has been importing several commodities from Taiwan -- synthetic thread, plywood, water/pipes and woven fabrics. Their value totals JD 3 million.

As a symbol of Sino-Jordanian friendship, nationalist China will erect a Chinese-style pavilion on the Aqaba-Ghor Al Safi highway.

The idea of building such a pavilion in Jordan stems from an old Chinese tradition. In Taiwan, several pavilions are seen on main roads, for in old days people used to rest in them during their travels. Others, inspired by their architecture, would recite poetry or make speeches.

The pavilion in Jordan will bear a huge plaque bearing three Chinese characters meaning: "Friendship pavilion". It will be ready by Aug. 11 for the silver jubilee of His Majesty King Hussein.

To build this pavilion, special wood, tiles and paint will arrive in Aqaba in May, along with the accompanying artist, who will put the final touches to the "Friendship Pavilion."

Exchange Rates

Following are the official exchange rates in effect at the start of today's business day, as set by the Central Bank of Jordan.

The first column is how much you would receive in Jordanian fils for selling a unit of the foreign currency, while the second column denotes how much it would cost you to buy a unit of the foreign currency:

U.K. sterling	569.0	575.0
U.S. dollar	330.0	332.0
German mark	139.7	140.1
French franc	66.7	67.0
Swiss franc	131.3	131.7
Italian lira (for every 100)	37.4	37.6
Saudi riyal	93.4	93.8
Lebanese pound	108.7	109.2
Syrian pound	80.8	81.0
Iraqi dinar	945.0	950.0
Kuwaiti dinar	1140.0	1152.0
Egyptian pound	460.0	470.0
Libyan dinar	810.0	820.0
UAE dirham	84.5	85.2

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Minister of Culture and Youth Sharif Fawwaz Sharaf looks over paintings at an exhibition he opened at the British Council Tuesday of works by the Jordanian artists Saleh Abu Shandi, Hafeez Qasbi, Kayed Amr and Mohammad Al Sayid. (JNA photo).

JAPAN GIVES JD 8.5 m LOAN FOR DAM PROJECT

AMMAN (R). — Japan will give Jordan a JD 8.5 million loan to finance Wadi Al Arab dam project in the northern part of the country, it was announced here Tuesday.

The announcement said the loan would be repaid over a 25-year period, starting seven years from now, at a 3.5 per cent rate of interest.

A memorandum relating to the loan agreement was signed here by representatives of the Jordan Valley Commission and the National Planning Council, and the Japanese Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund.

Official sources said the formal accord was expected to be signed next month.

The money will be used to build a 54 metre high dam which would have a capacity of 10 million cubic metres of water and irrigate 12,500 dunums in the Jordan Valley. It is due for completion in 1981.

Newspaper reports state Houses bulldozed in Nablus; land seized

AMMAN (JNA). — The Jerusalem Arabic daily Al Quds has said that the Israeli authorities Monday bulldozed three houses in Nablus, and sealed off another after the inhabitants were driven out.

These measures are part of Israeli plans to deplete the occupied Arab territories of their inhabitants to make room for new Jewish immigrants. The mayor and people of Nablus protested against these arbitrary measures, the newspaper said.

Al Quds has further claimed that Israel recently seized 400 dunums of land in Kafr Laqef and Janisafut in Nablus Governorate with the aim of setting up a settlement there.

It added that land from Baqan near Mount Tamoun had been confiscated to construct a settlement on the site.

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Kuwait, Iraq attack West at ECWA meet

AMMAN (J.T.). — Kuwait and Iraq Tuesday lashed out at the developed world for not contributing sufficiently to the United Nations, an act which endangers the work of the U.N. Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA), currently holding its fourth session here.

The two delegations were making their comments during a discussion on ECWA's progress report. The Kuwait delegate stressed that the little aid the developed countries are giving ECWA is making it hard for the commission to fulfill its aims. The oil states, he added, although they are still developing -- have fulfilled their duties in giving the United Nations one per cent of their national income.

"We are asking industrial countries to give to those who suffer hunger and not just throw their wealth into the sea." The commission also discussed its role in promoting cooperation among developing countries. Delegates were unanimous in applauding this role.

3,500 YEAR-OLD CITY FOUND IN JORDAN VALLEY

AMMAN (AFP). — An international team of archaeologists has uncovered the ruins of an unknown 3,500 year-old city in the Jordan Valley, the Department of Antiquities announced here Sunday.

The archaeologists, working in the region of Tal Mazar, in the central portion of the valley, discovered the remains of grain silos and pottery, copper and bronze workshops, as well as swords, human bones and bronze statues.

One of the bronze figurines is of a horseman, carrying his hunting weapons, pursuing a deer harassed by a dog.

The team, made up of Jordanian, American, Canadian, British and Italian archaeologists, also recently discovered a cemetery dating back to approximately 600 B.C. (This story corrects the caption to Sunday's photo on page 3).

UAE TO SET UP UNIVERSITY

AMMAN (JNA). — The Dean of the Faculty of Education at the University of Jordan, Dr. Said Al Tai, returned from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Tuesday after taking part in a meeting, which worked out a plan for the establishment of a university in the UAE.

Dr. Al Tai said the university, to be based at Al Ain, is expected to open early next year.

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ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS NEWS

Republicans warn that Carter's energy programme could lead to recession

WASHINGTON, April 26 (R). — President Carter's energy plan came under open fire today from opposition Republican leaders who warned it could lead to recession and by 1985 would cost Americans 70 billion dollars a year.

The party's leaders held a closed-door meeting on the sweeping energy programme the president unveiled last week and then called a news

conference to dispute his proposals and a gloomy forecast that the world is rapidly running out of oil.

Senate Republican leader Howard Baker of Tennessee said there was no shortage now and "we can produce our way out of this" if there were incentives to drill for new reserves.

Mr. Baker, House of Representatives Republican Leader John Rhodes and Party

Chairman Bill Brock cited United Nations studies and a 1975 U.S. geological service report which both estimated vast oil reserves remain to be found in the United States and elsewhere.

The Republicans, who are in a minority in Congress, spoke shortly before Central Intelligence Agency Director Stansfield Turner testified to a House subcommittee on a CIA report which says rising demand will outpace new output as early as 1985.

Mr. Carter relied heavily on

the CIA study in warning Americans they must conserve fuel or face disaster.

A U.N. study released Sunday and cited yesterday by the Republicans estimated the world has about 100 years' supply of oil. The geological survey predicted two years ago that the United States could probably find 100 per cent more oil given the right conditions.

The Republicans, who intend to submit an energy plan of their own to counter Mr. Carter's proposal, were espe-

cially critical of the president's plan to use taxes to force Americans to conserve fuel.

The Carter plan, which has to be approved by the Democratic-controlled Congress, calls for raising the four cent petrol tax by up to 50 cents a gallon by 1985 if consumption keeps going up.

It also envisages higher well-head taxes on domestic oil to bring prices in line with world levels and other fuel efficiency taxes, including one on big cars which are heavy on petrol consumption.

Oil publication says Saudi had record output in March

BAHRAIN, April 26 (R). — Saudi Arabian oil output apparently reached a record 9.8 million barrels a day in March, according to the authoritative oil weekly Middle East Economic Survey (MEES).

The Nicosia-based newsletter said in its latest issue that Saudi Arabia "after some delay, was at last getting within striking distance of its original (1977) first quarter target of 10 million barrels a day."

Saudi officials were quoted as saying Saudi crude oil exports averaged 9,302,628 barrels a day in March. In addition the Saudi oil refinery at Ras Tanura uses some 500,000 barrels a day, which means a production level of about 9.8 million barrels, the newsletter said.

The 10 million barrels a day target for the first quarter of

this year compared with daily output of 8.5 million barrels last year.

But stormy weather hit the Ras Tanura terminal and output reached only about 8.8 million barrels a day in January and 9.4 million in February.

Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) increased their oil prices by five per cent on January 1 compared with a 10 per cent rise by the 11 other

members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

The increase in Saudi oil and an increase in UAE production from 1.5 to 1.7 million barrels a day in the first quarter of this year, means the countries have enlarged their share of the world's oil flow about one million barrels a day at the expense of other OPEC producers.

CAR FOR SALE

Mercedes 280 - 1975. — Customs not paid. Colour: White. — The car is in very good condition. FINAL PRICE: JD 2350. Please contact tel. 67171, Mr. Adam (after 10 a.m.)

Oil states to have \$52 billion trade surplus this year

NEW YORK, April 26 (R). — The seven Arab oil-exporting nations and Iran together will have an estimated trade surplus of \$52 billion dollars this year, up less than two per cent from last year's surplus, according to a report in MidEast markets.

The publication, which receives some of its information from Chase Manhattan Bank, said that the eight oil exporting nations of the region — Algeria, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arab, Libya and the United Arab Emirates — would have a surplus of about \$52 billion dollars with the leading industrial states, slightly less than the surplus recorded last year.

MidEast markets said that according to preliminary projections, the eight oil states will export 109 billion dollars and import about 57 billion dollars of goods this year. Capital goods will account for at least half of their imports.

Last year, the publication said, the trade surplus of the eight with leading industrial states rose sharply to 35 billion dollars. The highest rise in trade surpluses were with the U.S., up 3.9 billion dollars, and Japan, up 803 million.

Among the oil exporters, Saudi Arabia and Libya registered the largest increase in surpluses. Kuwait alone had a decline in its surplus with the industrial states.

Italy and Portugal receive IMF loans

WASHINGTON, April 26 (R). — The 20-member executive board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have taken steps to help Italy and Portugal strengthen their economies.

After months of tough negotiations with the Italian government, the IMF agreed to lend the country 530 million dollars in support of an economic programme designed to cut Italy's inflation rate and balance its books with the rest of the world.

The IMF said the economic plan mapped out for Italy provided measures to bring greater order to public spending, curb borrowing on credit and ensure internal and external financial stability on a more lasting basis.

For Portugal, the IMF agreed to advance a loan totalling 49 million dollars to support the

Portuguese government's attempts to contain domestic consumption and imports while stimulating investment and exports.

The Portuguese government will be able to draw on the 49 million dollar credit line over the next 12 months.

IMF Managing Director Dr. Johannes Witteveen has proposed that a new fund should be set up totalling around 16 billion dollars to help supplement IMF's lending capability.

Both the oil exporting nations and the richer industrial countries would be expected to contribute to the fund.

Today, 24 finance ministers and the central bank governors representing IMF member countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America will meet to consider proposals to improve the IMF's ability to lend funds to members in need.

African bank sets capital resources as main objective

NAIROBI, April 26 (R). — The President of the African Development Bank, Mr. Kwame Fordwor, said here today that a major increase in the bank's capital resources was now his principal objective.

On his way to Mauritius for the 13th annual meeting of the bank, Mr. Fordwor told a press conference he would look to

the industrialised world as well as oil-rich Arab and African nations for the increase in capital.

He said the Bank's lending last year fell by six per cent to 103.64 million dollars. However, for the next five years he suggested a target for total lending of 1.2 billion dollars, equivalent to 25 million dollars for each member country.

North-South Dialogue reopens with slim chances for agreement

PARIS, April 26 (R). — Rich and poor nations today begin attempts to resolve in three weeks the problems which they were unable to solve throughout last year in their long-stalled "North-South" Dialogue.

Delegates to the 27-member economic negotiations between Western industrial powers, members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and developing nations aim to agree proposals on energy, raw materials and financial problems by May 14.

Chances of reaching agreement look rather slim since eight special negotiating meetings were held here last year with little progress.

"The situation is really very

bleak," a spokesman for the group of 19 developing and oil exporting nations said.

Senior officials from the "Group of 19" met here yesterday to prepare for the resumption of negotiations with the other side — the "Group of 8," made up of the United States, Canada, Japan, the European Common Market, Australia, Switzerland, Sweden and Spain.

The dialogue was launched by French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing in the midst of a world economic recession.

Its objectives were for a restricted group of nations to find a series of proposals leading to a fairer distribution of the world's wealth.

Two major problems so far have been the export earnings of oil and other raw material producers, and the re-scheduling of Third World countries' debts to industrial nations.

The industrial side has resolutely refused to accept the idea of indexing oil and raw material prices to their own inflation rates, or of agreeing to a global relief programme, as demanded by the developing side.

Negotiations will begin with talks between the co-chairmen of the dialogue, Canadian Deputy Premier Allan Rock and Venezuelan Minister of State Manuel Perez Guerrero, and the eight co-chairmen of the specialist negotiating commissions.

CIA concludes that domestic oil problems will force Russia into the world oil market

WASHINGTON, April 26 (R). — Central Intelligence Agency Director Stansfield Turner told Congress Monday Russia's problems in producing oil will severely complicate the Western world's energy problems between now and 1985.

Under attack for the agency's gloomy picture of world energy

problems, Admiral Turner made a rare public appearance before a congressional panel and detailed the CIA's conclusion that the Soviet Union would be forced into the world oil market in the early 1980s because of major problems in maintaining high domestic output.

A CIA report cited by President Carter last week in arguing for a comprehensive, conservation-oriented energy plan was criticised by Congressional Republicans as too pessimistic in view of similar studies by other groups estimating that the world still has major untapped reserves of oil and gas.

Admiral Turner told the House of Representatives Subcommittee on Energy and Manpower that CIA estimates of Soviet production are "crucial to our analysis" and declassi-

fied the spy agency's report on Soviet oil production.

He said oil output in the Soviet Union would soon peak at 11 to 12 million barrels a day, possibly as early as next year and certainly no later than the early 1980s. Current Soviet production is about 10.5 million barrels a day.

The CIA director said the Soviet Union is experiencing "severe water encroachment" problems which means they must pump increasingly large quantities of water for each barrel of oil produced.

The CIA report forecast that the Soviet Union and East Europe would need to import between 3-1/2 to 4-1/2 million barrels a day by the early 1980s instead of exporting at the current rate of a million barrels a day.

Israel's trade deficit lower

TEL AVIV, April 26 (AFP). — Israel's trade deficit in 1976 totalled 3,288 million dollars, compared with 4,050 million the year before, official statistics released in Jerusalem revealed yesterday.

The decline was mainly due to a 13 per cent drop in the defence imports, 1,603 million dollars, against 1,846 million in 1975.

Another factor in the improved trade balance was a 23 per cent rise in exports 2,680 million dollars against 2,181 million the previous year.

The fall in defence purchases was offset by the rise in import services of 103 million dollars.

Total imports including services in 1976 were 7,690 million dollars, 2 per cent less than the 1975 figure.

Coffee demand falls in U.S. due to high prices

NEW YORK, April 26 (AFP). — The high price of coffee has caused a sharp fall in demand for the commodity in the United States, statistics showed today.

The firm Paton said that on April 16 about 5,900,000 bags of green coffee beans had been

roasted since the beginning of the year, compared with 6,690,000 bags at the same date in 1976, representing a fall of almost 13 per cent.

In other developments, Congressman Fred Richmond (Democrat, New York State) said during the week-end that, according to information which he had obtained from U.S. roasters, coffee sales had fallen sharply in the last few weeks in this country.

These statements were more or less confirmed by a spokesman for Folger's, the number two U.S. distributor of ground coffee, which said that there had been a significant fall in sales because of the high level of prices.

At the same time, a spokesman for the AGP chain of supermarkets, one of the biggest in the United States, said that sale of ground coffee dipped by 20 per cent during the last three months, compared with the corresponding period last year.

The United States, the world's chief importer of coffee, obtains its supplies mainly from Latin America (Brazil, Colombia).

Mr. Richmond has criticised the rise in coffee prices on the world market several times this year, considering that it was due to manipulation by big producers such as Brazil.

The congressman said that information passed to him indicated that the Brazilian coffee harvest, beginning shortly, would exceed forecasts made by the Brazilian coffee institute (15,000,000 bags). If frost (in July and August) did not affect the Brazilian coffee shrubs this year, prices on the world market would collapse, Mr. Richmond predicted.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

* PARIS, April 26 (R). — Vietnam's Prime Minister Pham Van Dong, developing his reunified country's links with the West, meets today with French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing. The 71-year-old leader is on his first visit to the West since the fall of the American-backed government of South Vietnam. Mr. Dong will lunch with the president today and then have talks expected to centre on economic aid, especially French participation in exploitation of offshore oil resources. In a week's time, U.S. and Vietnamese delegates open talks here on establishing relations.

* KUWAIT, April 26 (R). — Ghana and North Yemen are to get Kuwaiti loans worth 24 million sterling, it was announced here today. North Yemen is to get a 3.5 million Kuwaiti dinar (seven million sterling) loan from the Kuwaiti Arab Economic Development Fund (KFAED) which will be used in developing North Yemen's animal wealth. The 1.5 per cent interest loan will be repaid over a period of 24 years from 1987, the announcement said.

* TEL AVIV, April 26 (R). — One of the Soviet Union's biggest trade organisations is seeking contacts with Israeli firms for the first time since the Kremlin broke off diplomatic relations in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, a business chief said here today. The director of Tel-Aviv Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Zvi Amit said the organisation had received a letter from the Paris Office of Intorg, a big Soviet export company, seeking buyers for paper, newspaper, printing presses, ink, and other goods.

* HAVANA, April 26 (R). — The first senior U.S. official to visit Cuba since Washington severed diplomatic relations had talks with the government here today on delineating overlapping fishing zones. The Swiss Embassy, which looks after U.S. interests in Cuba, said Mr. Terence Todman, Under-Secretary of State for Latin American Affairs, was heading the delegation. Both the U.S. and Cuba extended their fishing limits to 200 miles on March 1, creating an overlap problem, as this Caribbean island lies only 90 miles south of Florida.

WALL STREET REPORT

Prices were mixed in early active trading Tuesday on the New York stock exchange. The industrial average closed about one point higher, but declines outnumbered advances at the bell by a 737 to 605 margin.

There were some cautious buying after the sharp decline of the past three sessions, but the rally made little headway in the face of continued concern about President Carter's energy proposals, as well as the inflation and interest rate outlook.

Most groups of shares closed on a mixed note. Oil, auto and department store issues, however, were generally steady, while gold mine and chemical shares closed lower. Kodak rose 1-5/8 to 61-7/8 in active trading following a four point drop on Monday.

At the close, the industrial average shows at 915.62, a gain of 1.02 points; Transp at 230.77, a loss of 1.31; utilities at 107.11, a loss of 0.28. 20,040,000 shares changed hands, of which 3,530,000 during the last hour.

LONDON MARKET REPORT

Share prices closed irregular after a quiet session, dealers said. At 15:00 the F.T. index was up 0.5 at 419.5.

Equities finished mixed, after being lower on Wall Street influences. Oils were active with Shell closing 17p up on speculation that its dividends will be exempted from control. However, the company had no comment to make on this.

Government bonds were dull on fears that short term U.S. interest rates may rise, dealers said.

Net falls ranged to 3/8 point. Golds, American and Canadian generally eased.

Properties were fairly active on investment demand which was prompted by lower interest rates. The larger groups rose as much as 10p.

Unilever ended 10p up following press reports that a deal with the Soviet Union is in the offing regarding its process for nutritionally enriching straw. There was speculation of exemption from dividend controls as well.

Sears finished a penny up after final figures while Brooke Bond was a similar sum easier after the dividend forecast. Vickers added 7p on demand ahead of results due Thursday.

APOLOGY -- The gold price was not received Tuesday.

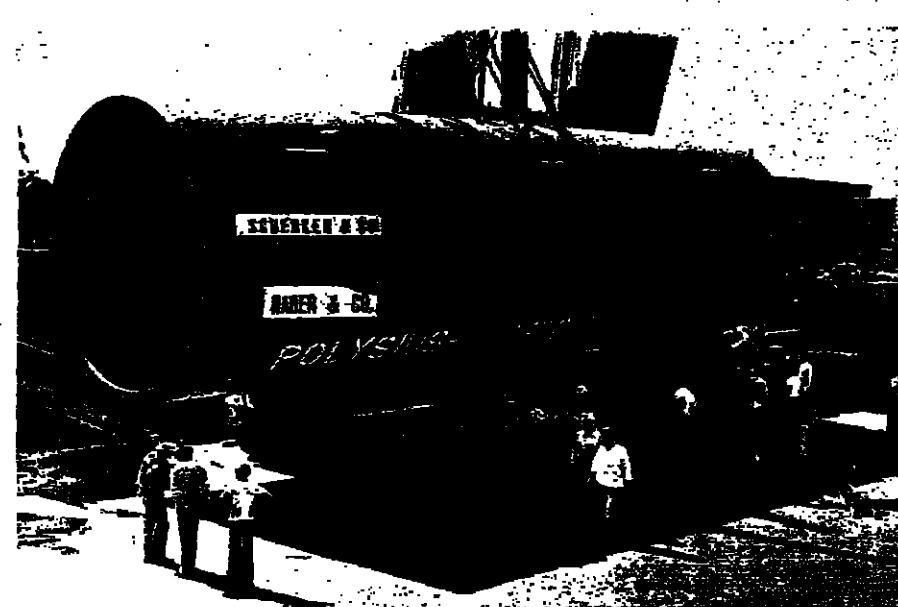
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Your Daily HOROSCOPE

from the CARROLL RIGHTER INSTITUTE

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You find that you cannot express the broad scope of your imagination as you wish but by being more cheerful you will be able to accomplish a great deal. An assistant can be of service to you now.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Be satisfied with the less expensive amusements and build up your reserve funds at this time. Put creative ideas to work.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) A good day to improve your surroundings. Study new interests, but forget those that are not practical and wise.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Go over new plans with associates so there will be no slipup later on. Be sure to use care in motion and avoid accident.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) You must use discretion in the handling of finances today to be on the safe side. Strive for increased happiness.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Analyze your aims more carefully and take corrective steps to attain them. Steer clear of a group affair in the evening.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Study and figure out how the best way to handle a problem that is vexing you. Show family members more affection.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Don't become annoyed with a friend whose ideas are different from yours. Be only with persons you know well at social functions.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Formulate a new plan that will help you handle your duties more effectively. Engage in public affairs and improve your image.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You are now able to put a new plan to work that will make the future much brighter for you and family members.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Be sure to keep promises you have made to others. Show more love for nature and come to a better understanding.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Fine day for making new arrangements with associates but be careful of the small prints in contracts. Express happiness.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You can accomplish a great deal at routines if you are not distracted. Find a clever way to restore your energies.

NOW YOU CAN BUY YOUR COPY OF THE JORDAN TIMES IN DAMASCUS - JEDDAH - DUBAI

TONIGHT'S T.V. FEATURE

PARTRIDGE FAMILY: DOUBLE TROUBLE

With, wishing to go to a dance party, gets entangled with two girls and finds difficulty in extricating himself from his awkward situation.

BEN HALL: THE VOW

Friends of a man who was hanged follow Ben Hall thinking he was the cause for the death of their friend.

OUT AND ABOUT

CHINESE RESTAURANT

Wings Hotel, Jabbal Al-Luwaihi, Tel. 22103/4. First Circle, Jabbal Amman, near the Abilayah School or CMS. Tel. 35968. Open daily from noon to 8:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to midnight. Specialty: steaks. Also take home service - order by phone.

THE DIPLOMAT

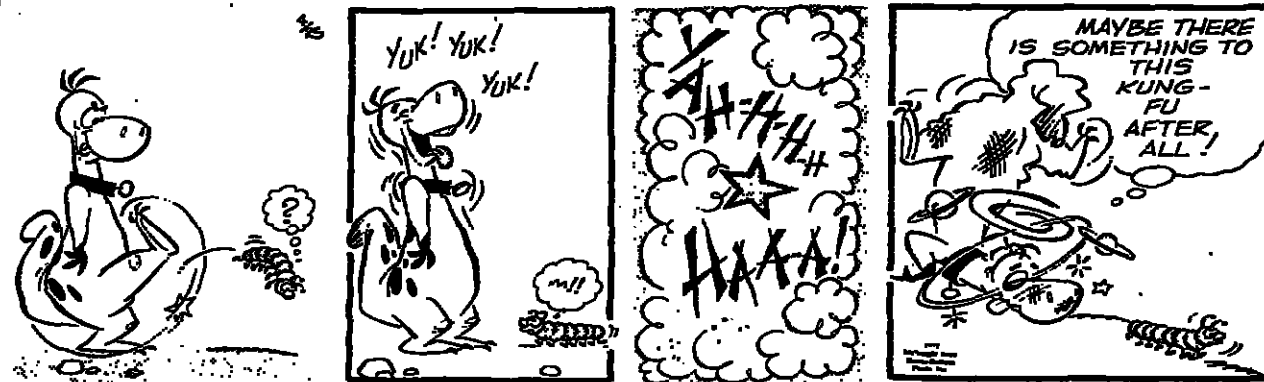
First Circle, Jabbal Amman, Tel. 25592. Open from 7 a.m. to 1 a.m. Restaurant, coffee-shop, snack bar and patisserie. Oriental and European specialties.

For advertising in above columns contact "Sout Wa Soura" Tel. 38669. Open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 4-6 p.m.

PEANUTS



THE FLINTSTONES



MUTT AND JEFF



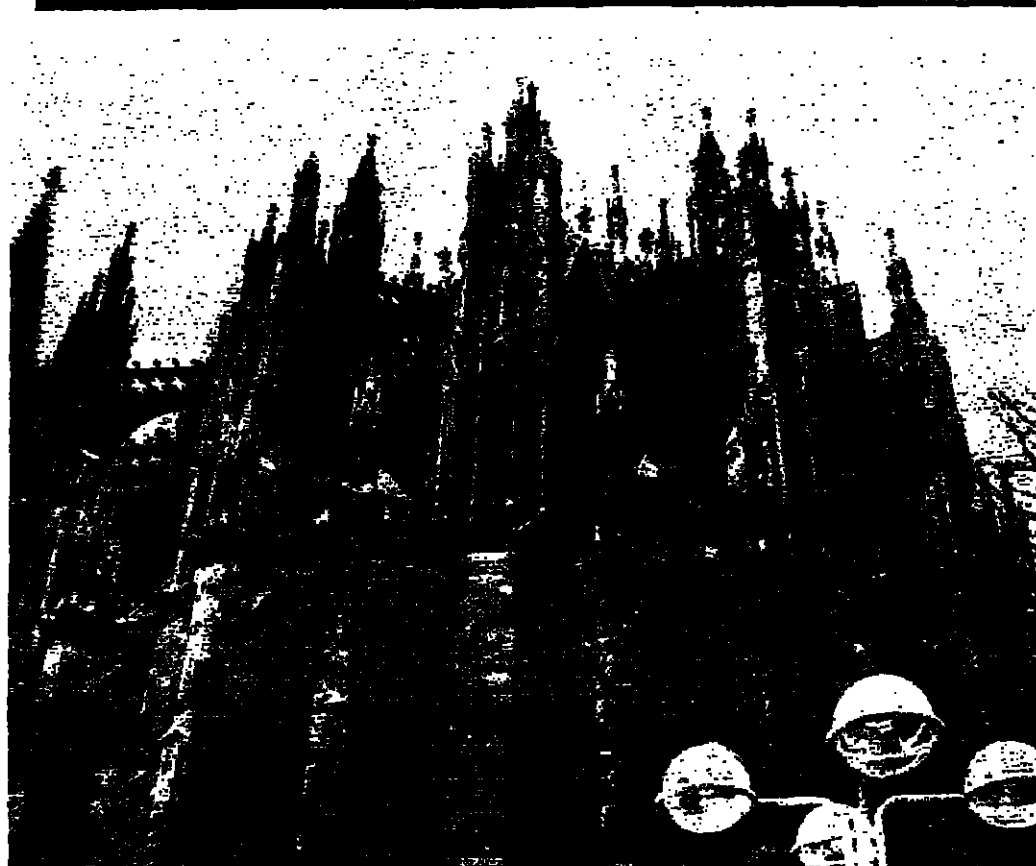
LAUGHS FROM EUROPE



WORLD RECORDS

The longest period for which anyone has gone without food is 382 days by Angus Barbieri of Tayport, Fife, who lived on tea, coffee, water, soda water and vitamins in Maryfield Hospital, Dundee, from June 1965 to July 1966. His weight declined from 214 kg. to 80 kg.

THE PAGE FIVE FEATURE PHOTO



COLOGNE CATHEDRAL'S incomparable Gothic masonry is showing signs of wear and tear. Building started in 1248 and was completed, after a lengthy interval, in 1880. Yet masons have been fighting a losing battle against the long touch of decay since 1863. In 1975 they started spraying susceptible sandstone with a silicon designed to keep its elements at bay for twenty years. The latest idea is a permanent coating of acrylic glass that is less expensive than continually replacing weathered masonry. But the entire cathedral will not be clad in glass. Supporting walls and sections will continue to be replaced stone by stone.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES R. GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
© 1977 by Chicago Tribune

DEAR MR. GOREN:

Q.—In a rubber game last night, I opened the bidding with one no trump and partner responded two hearts. Holding only a doubleton king in hearts, I rebid two no trump. Partner, who had a very weak hand, passed. That contract was not a success. Partner blamed me, saying he had made a "drop-dead" bid, and that I was compelled to pass. Is this so?

—R. Allen, Syracuse, N.Y.
(This question has been awarded the weekly prize.)

A.—The colloquialism "drop-dead" bid is greatly overused. There are any number of responses which signify great weakness, but over most of them partner still has the right to act if he feels his hand warrants it. A typical example of a true "drop-dead" bid is the following: You open the bidding with a preempt, say three diamonds, next hand passes and partner raises to four diamonds. Now, whether or not your right-hand opponent intervenes, you are barred from bidding on. You have already shown your hand and the next decision is up to partner.

A response of two of a suit to your no trump opening bid comes close to being a "drop-dead" bid, for it shows a hand with a long suit and fewer than 7 points—perhaps even a bust. Therefore, you must exercise great care in acting over partner's response. There is only one allowable bid—with a maximum and good trump support, you may raise partner's response to

the three level. Correcting to two no trump because of a partial misfit is barred—if responder has a very weak hand, you will not be able to develop tricks in his hand, but if partner's suit becomes the trump suit, his hand could be very valuable indeed.

For example, suppose you open one no trump and partner responds two hearts. You hold:

a) ♠ Q 10 x x b) ♠ Q 10 x
♥ K x ♥ A K x
♦ A J 10 x x ♦ A J 10 x x

Both hands have exactly the same point count. Yet with hand a) you should pass partner's response of two hearts while with hand b) you should raise to three hearts. The difference is the quality of the trump support.

Q.—Should we have reached slam on this hand and, supposing the final contract is six no trump, how would you play it?

♠ K
♥ A
♦ K Q 9 4 2
♣ A K Q 9 7 3
♠ 10 8 6 3 2 ♠ Q
♥ J 10 5 4 ♥ 9 8 2
♦ 10 8 ♦ A J 7 5 3
♣ 6 2 ♣ 10 8 5 4
♠ A J 9 7 5 4
♥ K Q 7 6 3
♦ 6
♣ J

West led a low spade.—A. Thompson, Detroit, Mich.

A.—With such a misfit, it would seem that game is an adequate undertaking. However, I can understand how the momentum of the auction could easily carry you to slam.

Actually, slam can always be made as the cards lie, and even though the line is risky, the shortage of entries between the two hands and blockage in the major suits should force declarer to adopt desperate measures. Win the king of spades and cash the ace of hearts. Cross to the South hand with the jack of clubs and cash two hearts and a spade, discarding three diamonds from dummy. (Declarer shouldn't cash the jack of spades since one club discard from dummy won't help.)

This strike East of all major-suit cards. Now lead a diamond to the queen. If East refuses to win, you simply run clubs for your contract. If he does win the ace, he must return a minor-suit card, and dummy is high.

Send any questions for this column to: Charles Goren and Omar Sharif, c/o this newspaper. Each week a prize of a copy of the new Goren's Bridge Complete, a \$9.95 value, will be awarded for the question judged the best received.

Charles Goren and Omar Sharif personally cannot undertake to answer all questions submitted.

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LA AVI
DENEY
MISTUR
ENVEAL

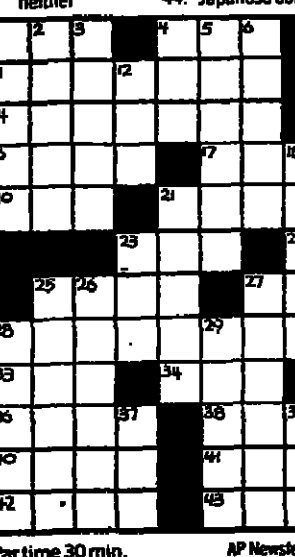


Print surprise answer here: ○○○○○○

Yesterday's Jumbles: BRIAR SKIMP ASYLUM THIRTY
Answer: What he said to the quibbling barber — DON'T SPLIT HAIRS

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
1. Advance guard
4. Wooden block
7. Turnout
11. Connoisseur
13. Buffoon
14. Naive
15. Size of type
16. Maple genus
17. Nervous disease
19. Spanish hero
20. Sea god
21. Vary the pitch
23. Correlative of neither



DOWN
24. Stake
25. Incursion
27. Amalgamate
28. Regretted
30. Place
33. Viper
34. Scrod
35. Watercourse
36. Base
38. Lowest
40. Opinion
41. Liven
42. Cupel
43. Clutch
44. Japanese coin

SOLUTION OF YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE
1. Saltwater
2. Gnat
3. Rhetorician
4. Cold
5. Outdo
6. At the top
7. Intone
8. Meter
9. Worthless dog
10. Son of Venus
11. Indian of Oregon
12. Inattentive
13. Nothing
14. Remain
15. Crabs and russets
16. Site of Mohammed's tomb
17. Ship's crane
18. Caesar was one
19. Monks
20. Sharp-pointed
21. Arabian
22. Tire
23. Chew

Difficulties reportedly face Manila peace talks

MANILA, April 26 (R). — Negotiations seeking a final settlement of the Moslem rebellion in the southern Philippines are encountering difficulties, informed sources said today.

The talks which have been going on for five days are being held by a government team led by Defence Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile, delegates from the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and representatives of four members of the Islamic Conference — Libya, Saudi Arabia, Senegal and Somalia.

The main focus of the discussions is an attempt to reach agreement on an autonomous provisional government and the absorbing of rebel troops still in the hills.

The sources said the discussions were encountering "rough passages", though both sides still expressed optimism at the eventual outcome.

No mention has been made in the talks of a referendum nine days ago in the 13 southern provinces which showed an overwhelming sentiment against

merger into a single Moslem autonomous region, although the MNLF boycotted the referendum and many people did not vote.

The Islamic Conference committee is reported to be keen to see solid progress if not a final settlement to report to its annual conference in Jeddah on May 16.

The Philippines is believed to want to ensure maintenance of a ceasefire established last December in the more than four-year-old rebellion which has cost thousands of lives.

6 American oilmen board Bravo rig trying to plug oil well

STAVANGER, Norway, April 26 (Agencies). — Six American oilmen today boarded Bravo rig in the North Sea to try to plug an out-of-control well that is gushing thousands of tonnes of crude and threatening a pollution, disaster, the oil company said.

The task -- expected to take at least 48 hours -- is a hazardous one for the American trouble-shooters.

Natural gas is also escaping from the "wild" production pipe and a tiny spark could turn Bravo rig and the sea around it into an inferno.

The oilmen, in oxygen masks and protective rubber clo-

thes, must jam a cap on to the leaking pipe, which blew out on Friday night, and is spewing about 4,000 tonnes of oil a day into the North Sea, Europe's fish-pond.

Once aboard, the oilmen began getting ready to take delivery of the equipment needed to cap the well.

Phillips Petroleum, operators of Bravo rig in Norway's Ekofisk field, are confident the pipe can be capped and pollution disaster averted.

The company said production on other Ekofisk rigs, stopped early on Sunday because of the Bravo blow-out, resumed today.

High winds and heavy rain yesterday helped break up two oil slicks from the Bravo well, southwest of here.

Meanwhile, production has started again in the Ekofisk oilfield, apparently justifying the relative optimism shown overnight over the possibility of plugging the Bravo rig.

A spokesman for Phillips Petroleum said that production on two other Ekofisk rigs, Alpha and Charlie, had started again after a two-day shutdown.

Phillips is planning to tow a service rig with a giant crane into place alongside Bravo during the course of the day.

Vorster discusses Namibia with 5 Western representatives today

CAPE TOWN, April 26 (AFP). — Special envoys from the United States, Britain, France, West Germany and Canada were consulting here today prior to a meeting with Prime Minister John Vorster tomorrow at which, diplomatic sources say, they will try to persuade him to change South Africa's policies on Namibia.

Approximately 15 officials of the five Western countries will take part in tomorrow's meeting which South African Foreign Minister P. W. Botha will also attend.

It is the second stage of a round of contacts initiated two weeks ago by the five countries when their diplomatic envoys held a first meeting with Mr. Vorster.

The delegation will include their U.N. ambassadors, heads of diplomatic missions in South Africa and a number of officials from the various foreign ministries.

A South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) report confirmed today that delegates to the South African-organised Turnhalle constitutional talks in Windhoek, the Namibian capital, will also join the talks, although it did not say at what stage.

The turnhalle conference, so called after the old German gymnasium in Windhoek where it is taking place, was begun in 1975 with delegations representing Namibia's 11 ethnic groups taking part with a view to independence by 1979.

No agenda has been drawn up for tomorrow's meeting which it is thought could last until Friday.

Meanwhile, the Turnhalle conference's white chairman, Dirk Mudge, surprised observers here today by hinting that SWAPO (South West Africa People's Organisation),

the main Namibian nationalist movement which has been boycotting the talks might take part in later stages of the constitution-making proceedings.

Mr. Mudge is regarded as a moderate voice among Namibia's whites, forming about an eighth of the total population of 800,000.

SWAPO's external wing is fighting a guerrilla war from Angolan territory against South Africa's continued presence in Namibia, branded as illegal by the U.N.

"SWAPO cannot be wished away. Sooner or later we will have to deal with them. We prefer that this is done democratically and not through a civil war," Mr. Mudge told students at Cape Town's Stellenbosch Afrikaans University last night.

PLO may mediate between Ethiopia, Eritreans

KUWAIT, April 26 (AFP). — The Palestine Liberation Organisation may shortly launch a mediation effort between Ethiopia's military government and Eritrean secessionists, at the Ethiopians' request, the daily Al Watan reported here today.

Quoting reliable sources, Al Watan said preliminary contacts had already been made in a bid to find a formula to end the 15-year old war waged by the Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF) and other organisations against Addis Ababa's rule in the province.

The request of the Ethiopian Provisional Military Administrative Council (PMAC), the Dergue, the paper said.

It said the Ethiopian request was conveyed to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat during "a recent visit to a major capital."

Mr. Arafat was recently in Moscow, observers pointed out. The Ethiopian government recently invited the PLO to open an office in Addis Ababa but the Palestinians refused on the grounds that the organisation "would not agree to establish relations with a regime which is fighting the Eritrean revolution," Al Watan said.

Gromyko, Indian leaders stress: Indo-Soviet ties pose no dangers to others

NEW DELHI, April 26 (Agencies). — Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko met India's new leaders today on a mission to maintain close Indo-Soviet ties forged under the ousted Congress Party government.

"We cannot allow any gaps to appear in Indo-Soviet relations," he told reporters following what he called a very useful two-hour meeting with Mr. Morarji Desai, the new Prime Minister.

He also said Indo-Soviet ties threatened no other state. The close links with Moscow, including a 1971 treaty of peace, friendship and cooperation, were developed during the premiership of Mrs. Indira Gandhi, ousted in general elections last month.

Mr. Desai said he seeks genuine non-alignment, with no suspicion of drifting too near any one major power.

China is one power that has looked askance at Indo-Soviet ties.

The talks with Mr. Desai were followed by a lunch where India's Foreign Minister, Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, spoke warmly of the bonds with the Kremlin.

Moscow staunchly supported Mrs. Gandhi during 21 months of emergency rule when many of the present Janata Party government were detained without trial.

But Indo-Soviet friendship was "strong enough to survive the demands of divergent systems, the fate of an individual or the fortunes of a political party," Mr. Vajpayee said.

Mr. Vajpayee said the friendship between the two countries was reflected in the 1971 treaty and "has remained a constant factor for peace and stability in Asia and the world. We cherish our relations with you," he told Mr. Gromyko.

Mr. Vajpayee said that India appreciated the help that the Soviet Union has given to it to industrialise the country and make it self-reliant. India is also grateful for the Soviet Union's consistent and principled support in India's difficult times.

"We remember this and shall continue to value our friendship with you," he said.

On disarmament, he said in view of the plethora of resolutions and declarations of intent, the goal of complete and total disarmament remained a dream. Not only was there no reduction in the existing stockpiles, but more fearful weapons of mass destruction were being continually added to these stockpiles.

In this context, he said India has voluntarily and unilaterally pledged that it will use nuclear technology only for peaceful purposes "and we will support every effort to eliminate all the means of destruction from the face of the earth."

He also reiterated India's determination to move deliberately and firmly towards greater mutual understanding and bilateralism with all its neighbours.

Kidnappers threaten to kill El Salvador's F.M. within 24 hours

SAN SALVADOR, April 26 (R). — Urban guerrillas holding El Salvador's Foreign Minister, Senator Mauricio Pohl, have said they will kill him in less than 24 hours unless their demands are met.

In telephone calls to newspapers and radio stations here yesterday, the guerrillas said if President Arturo Molina "has not settled the situation, we shall find ourselves obliged to eliminate Mr. Borgonovo."

Police said they believed the calls were authentic, and that they were taking the threat seriously.

The guerrillas' current demand is for the release of at least some of 37 alleged political prisoners whose freedom they demanded after kidnapping the foreign minister seven days ago.

There was no immediate indication of how the government would now react. It has made no offer to the kidnappers so far, and President Molina has said the authorities here are holding only three of the 37 prisoners.

He said last Friday the prisoners were detained on ordinary criminal charges and could not be released unless Congress makes a special constitutional amendment.

Three other people on the guerrillas' list have come forward to say they were at liberty, but the families of a further three have said their relatives were still missing after having been arrested on unspecified charges.

A call to Reuters was made by an unidentified young man yesterday, who said: "Pay attention, the Popular Liberation Forces are speaking, ask no questions. If tomorrow President Molina has not settled the situation we shall find ourselves obliged to eliminate Mr. Borgonovo."

He added that the killing would take place on Tuesday. The family of the 38-year-old minister have tried without success to arrange a private deal with the guerrillas, but the kidnappers have rejected any cash ransom.

El Salvador, is still under a state of siege imposed during riots after presidential elections in February, in which the ruling, army-backed National Conciliation Party claimed victory.

The elections have intensified political violence, with about 40 leftwingers unofficially reported to have disappeared so far this year. Most of them are presumed to be in the hands of the army or in jail.

Scandals hitting Israel's Labour Party ill-timed for next month's elections, says Edinburgh's Scotsman

EDINBURGH, April 26 (R). — Israel in general, and the ruling Labour Party in particular, are afflicted by a damaging series of scandals, big and small, but all of them ill-timed for next month's elections, the Scotsman newspaper said today.

In an editorial headed "Scandals in Israel", the newspaper said when the Housing Minister, Mr. Ofra, committed suicide in January, he blamed an over-zealous press for torturing and libelling him with unfounded allegations that he had been involved in large scale fraud.

"The Rabin bank account was a minor sin, but it followed hard on the heels of the five year sentence (for fraud and tax evasion) imposed on Mr. Yadin."

It went on: "Now a leading light in Mr. Peres' reconstructed government, Mr. Abba Eban, is hunting for the official authorisation which he says he obtained for his four overseas bank accounts."

This preoccupation with scandal, great and small, comes at a time when there should be preoccupation with the possibilities of obtaining a permanent peace agreement in the Middle East, the Scotsman said.

"But the brutal taxes (which incite tax avoidance) and the maze of rules and regulations on, for example, overseas bank accounts, stem from the inordinate, and probably in the long term, untenable, expenditure on defence that Israel requires," the newspaper said.

The Quark: Discovery of nature's smallest component may have been made at Stanford University

WASHINGTON, April 26 (R). — Three scientists at Stanford University are expected to announce later today that they have apparently found the elusive Quark -- the long sought particle from which most of nature is believed to be built.

The discovery -- if verified -- could end the centuries old search for matter's smallest component. It would revolutionise physics and Man's concept of nature.

The discovery is to be announced today at a meeting of the American Physical Society and will be published in Physics Review Letters, the principal scientific publication for physicists.

The three Stanford scientists refused to comment on the experiment until the paper is read at the meeting, but the results of their experiment were learned yesterday.

Last year a group of scientists in California and New York won the Nobel Prize in physics for producing a particle that strongly suggested the existence of Quarks.

The Stanford three, Mr. William M. Fairbank, Mr. George S. Larue and Mr. Arthur F. Hedrick, have now apparently measured the Quark.

The Quark is named after a generally unintelligible sentence in James Joyce's novel Finnegans Wake.

In 1962 Nobel laureate Murray Gell-Mann hypothesised that if an atom was broken down, its basic components would be three tiny particles, which he called Quarks. He said at the time he was half joking, and suggested that no one would ever be able to find Quarks.

Since then, hundreds of physicists, taking Mr. Gell-Mann seriously, have hunted for the Quark in every conceivable

experiment, looking in deep space, in old coal mines and in the dust of ancient cathedrals.

It became one of the most frantic searches in all of science because of the new understanding it could bring to Man's concept of nature.

The Stanford scientists have not actually produced a Quark. They produced an electric charge in three balls of a metal called niobium that exactly matches what one would find if there were Quarks there.

They took the balls of niobium and cooled them down to almost absolute zero, the temperature at which all molecular activity ceases. The balls were then suspended in a magnetic field and all normal electric

charges were stripped from them.

Believers in Quarks insist that the particle should have an electric charge of one-third that of an electron. When the scientists measured the charge left in the metal balls they found exactly that: Positive and negative charges one-third that of an electron.

Mr. Fairbank has refused to call his discovery a Quark but describes it merely as a "fractional charge on matter."

But scientists say that if the discovery is confirmed the long-held belief that the charge on the electron and proton is the basic unit of electricity will be overturned and this would mean a major revolution in Physics.

ILO will free nurses from need to assist in abortions on grounds of conscience

GENEVA, April 26 (R). — Nurses would be free to refuse to assist in abortions and other professional practices on grounds of conscience under proposals coming before 133 states here next June, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) said yesterday.

The ILO said its annual conference in Geneva from June 1 to 22 would consider a draft recommendation to governments that for the first time in the organisation's 58-year history included a "conscience clause".

Under the draft, aimed at giving nursing staff a better deal, nurses would be able to refuse on religious, moral or ethical grounds to carry out specific duties without being penalised.

An ILO spokesman said the proposed clause would cover cases such as abortion. It would stipulate that nurses would not be obliged to assist in these cases provided they gave advance notice of their objections and patients did not suffer as a result of their refusal.

The draft recommendation would also promise nurses a standard eight-hour day, maximum working day of 12 hours including overtime, and free time of at least 36 hours together each week.

2 Eritrean hijackers killed in Ethiopia

LONDON, April 26 (Agencies). — The crew of an Ethiopian airliner killed two hijackers trying to escape to Saudi Arabia or Sudan yesterday, Addis Ababa Radio said in a report monitored here.

It described the men as members of the Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF) which is fighting a guerrilla war against the Ethiopian government.

The radio said the incident happened aboard an Ethiopian Airlines D.C. 3 which had taken off from Mekele in Tigray Province on an internal flight.

The two men ordered the pilot to fly them to Saudi Arabia and then to Khartoum, the Sudan when he told them he did not have enough fuel.

They were killed after a struggle and the plane landed safely at Addis Ababa, the radio said.

In a separate development a State Department spokesman said that Ethiopia's decision to close U.S. installations and expel American personnel confirmed the "downward drift" of relations "which we naturally regret," a State Department spokesman said today.

"It is no secret that our relations have deteriorated despite our efforts to maintain former close ties," the spokesman said.

Libya denies Col. Qadhafi was shot at

TRIPOLI, April 26 (AFP). — The Libyan radio last night denied a Middle East News Agency report from Cairo on Sunday that an attempt was made last week to assassinate Libyan head of state Muammar Qadhafi.

The Egyptian news agency had reported that a Libyan had shot Col. Qadhafi in the arm and then took his own life.

The Libyan radio termed the Middle East News Agency report a "lie".

Meanwhile, the Arab Press Service reported from Nicosia last night that Libya has decided to send some 280,000 Egyptians now working in Libya back to Egypt.

ARNA, the Libyan news service, had reported yesterday morning from Tripoli that Libya was considering expelling Egyptians working in Libya.

France has chance to define its attitude to Quebec this week

OTTAWA, April 26 (AFP). — The Quebec Minister for Inter-Governmental (Foreign) Affairs, Claude Morin, plans to explain the "new reality" of Quebec politics and to strengthen ties with France when he visits Paris from April 27 to 29.

The visit is the first by a Quebec minister since the province's independence government took power in the province on Nov. 15, and Quebec officials consider the trip to be of "special" political importance.

But, as Mr. Morin himself stressed in an interview with Agence France Presse, Quebec neither expects nor wants the French government to support actively its independence policy. In the view of Quebec's citizens, they alone can decide their political future.

Since 1967, when Gen. Charles de Gaulle gave voice to the rallying cry: "Vive le Quebec libre" (long live free Quebec), most Quebecois have realised the importance of cultural, technical and commercial cooperation with France, but they also seem to have evaded the differences which distinguish them and even separate them from their former mother country.

The most recent French governments have understood that, and they tried to re-establish relations with Ottawa which the de Gaulle statement -- whether intentional or not -- had seriously perturbed.

Canadian observers have noted the extreme prudence and discretion of France over the coming to power of the Parti Quebecois which backs political sovereignty for the primarily French-speaking province.

In federal circles in Ottawa, great attention is still paid to the evolution of Franco-Quebecois relations, and there is concern over the Quebec government's determination to affirm its autonomy on the international scene.

Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau has issued several public warnings to foreign nations against any attempt to engage in parallel relations with Quebec and Ottawa. Obviously, observers in Ottawa say, any move by Quebec on the international

scene will bring an immediate reaction from the federal capital.

Some observers link that idea with Mr. Trudeau's scheduled visit to Paris on May 12 to meet French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing. Reliable sources said the visit was not originally on Mr. Trudeau's agenda, which includes visits to Iceland and London.

Sentimental links between Paris and Quebec have now given way, observers note, to talk of big money, profitable investments and technology. It is in the technical and commercial sectors that bilateral cooperation is most disappointing and in that area that both sides feel the most need for an additional effort.

The fact remains, however, that Quebec still wants to increase its presence in all international organisations and would like to take a maximum advantage of its room for manoeuvre within the federal constitution to seek closer ties with the rest of the world.

The question in both Quebec and Ottawa is whether France is prepared to play the role of a kind of intermediary. Perhaps Mr. Morin will be better informed on that point after his meeting with Mr. Giscard d'Estaing.

The meeting, according to well-informed sources in Quebec, was not on Mr. Morin's original schedule, but was organised at the very last moment. It obviously caused some surprise in Ottawa.

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